



The Old Ironsides Report

Monday, April 26, 2004



Giessen Community, FRG leaders team up to support Iron families

Chaplains, social workers advise community members to talk about their feelings

By Alexandra Williams, 284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

GIESSEN, Germany -- The news 1st Armored Division's extension in Iraq caught families in the 284th Base Support Battalion by surprise as they prepared for reunions. Anger and disbelief were among the range of emotions expressed by family members as they began to come to terms with the change in plans.

"The news has been a kick in the stomach for everyone," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Scott Davies, 284th BSB chaplain. "We are currently seeing an increase in general and acute distress and we are working with our clients on an individual basis."

"Right now I would say that you can divide the community into three groups. First, you have the folks who are more experienced. They don't like the news, but they roll with the punches," said Davies. "They support our guys and carry on with life. Next are the folks whose primary action is to act out, venting out their anger. They need to talk to someone to get it off their chest. They feel hurt and disappointed and they want someone to acknowledge their feelings. The last group are individuals who hung on by their fingertips throughout the past year and after learning that the troops are being extended they just let go."

Army Community Service officials said they have not noticed an increased need for counseling, said Perry Tripp, 284th BSB ACS Family Advocacy Program manager.

"We are currently planning to host one big Community Hearts Apart lunch for all spouses. My idea is to assist them to actually sponsor the lunch on their own, and maybe we can find a guest speaker as well," said Deborah Gantt, 284th BSB ACS Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Program manager.

"As of now no special programs are planned, but ACS staff is always available to help anyone coming in — even if they only need to have someone listen to them," Gantt said.

Gantt's husband deployed with the 1st Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, so she is also affected. She has had moments of despair, but said she knows how to handle it.

"When I got the news I ran home to talk to my 15-year-old son," said Gantt. "Then I called my mother-in-law and my son in college and told them that my husband is not coming home. Of course, I was upset then and I thought, 'I cannot believe they are keeping us separated.'"

"I think everyone was upset that day and we are entitled to be upset. It's just understandable," she said. "But life has to go on, and to me it's important to support my husband and the troops. My job at ACS is helping me a lot to deal with the situation and I have the support of the staff. We have to do everything we can to stay positive and to support our Soldiers because they rely on our strength. They need to keep alert downrange and not worry about us."

"We are entitled to be upset, but the bottom line is that we are not helping our Soldiers by hanging on to the process," said Michelle Teets, a Family Readiness Group leader for Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion. "We need to deal with the fact that they



USAREUR Commanding General B.B. Bell speaks to Family Readiness Group members and Rear Detachment Soldiers April 23 in Friedberg, Germany. The meeting was a frank and spirited discussion of the challenges facing 1st Armored Division spouses who have had their family reunions delayed by 90 to 120 days as the division extends its mission in Iraq. Bell promised to "cut through the nonsense and start serving soldiers better" by ensuring that regulations work for Soldiers and their families. Spouses had concerns about legal issues, counselors, childcare, mentoring, summer school, Visa processing and vehicle registration extensions. Bell directed his subject matter experts to solve all of these issues immediately. USAREUR photo.

are not coming home now. The Army offers so many resources that help you deal with deployments. Talk to a close friend, to a chaplain, go to ACS and see what they are offering to support you. It's important to be strong for our husbands downrange. It's not helping them when they have to worry about their families at home."

"The bottom line is to realize that you are not a victim, and the Army is not doing this to you personally. I suggest that spouses go to an Army Family Team Building class," said Teets. "It's so much easier dealing with the Army when you know how it works and all the things that you or your Soldier might have to go through. The Army is offering a lot of help and support, and I encourage spouses to go and find the help they need to be strong and to support the Soldiers."

Anyone needing support or just wanting to talk to someone can contact ACS in Giessen at (0641) 402-7618, in Friedberg at (06031) 81-3465 or stop by the office.

The 284th BSB Chaplain's Office is located in Building 115 on Giessen Depot and can be reached at (0641) 402-8020.

Counseling service is also provided by Dr. Randy Cooke, clinical psychologist, for family members over the age of 17 at the Butzbach Health Clinic. He is available from Tuesday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Marriage and family counseling is provided by David Lawler Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Butzbach Clinic and Tuesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Friedberg. Call the Butzbach Health Clinic at (06033) 982 135 and ask to speak to one of their counselors.

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NEWS...

Iraqi Oil Terminal Closed After Attack

BAGHDAD (AP) - Suicide boat bombings targeting the key oil industry have forced the closure of Iraq's biggest terminal, losing the country nearly 1 million barrels a day in exports. U.S. military officials were trying to determine the launching point of the unprecedented suicide boat attack on two offshore oil terminals that are the sole outlet of Iraqi crude from the south. The attacks killed two U.S. Navy sailors.

Israel: No Attack Planned on Arafat Now

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli leaders on Sunday backed away from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's latest threats against Yasser Arafat, saying there are no immediate plans to kill the Palestinian leader. Sharon declared in a television interview that he is no longer bound by a promise to the United States not to harm Arafat.

Women's Rights Marchers Gather in D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Tens of thousands of women gathered for an abortion-rights rally Sunday as Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton told several hundred of them the issue is about women gaining full equality. At a pre-rally breakfast, Clinton said the Bush administration is "filled with people" who view the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade abortion ruling by the Supreme Court "the worst abomination of constitutional law."

Pope Puts Six People on Path to Sainthood

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Pope John Paul II added six more people to the ranks of possible sainthood Sunday, beatifying 19th and 20th century Europeans and Latin Americans at a ceremony in St. Peter's Square. Among the six was Alexandrina Maria da Costa of Portugal, who the Vatican says lived the last 13 years of her life eating only the bread and wine of Communion.

Thought for the day...

Moral Erosion

In the November 1987 *Reader's Digest*, Betty Wein described an old tale of a "just man" who came to an evil city hoping to save it from immoral ways.

He went from street to street, and marketplace to marketplace, shouting, "Men and woman, change your ways for what you are doing is wrong and will ultimately destroy you."

And, although they laughed at his efforts, he continued to shout his message until one day a child stopped him and asked him, "Poor stranger, don't you see it's useless?"

"Yes," the just man replied. "Then why do you go on?" the child asked.

"In the beginning, I shouted my message because I was convinced that I could change everyone. Now I go on shouting because I don't want them to change me."

In other news...

Louisiana May Ban Low-Slung Pants

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) -- People who wear low-slung pants that expose skin or "intimate clothing" would face a fine of up to \$500 and possible jail time under a bill filed by a Jefferson Parish lawmaker.

State Rep. Derrick Shepherd said he filed the bill because he was tired of catching glimpses of boxer shorts and G-strings over the lowered belt lines of young adults.

The bill would punish anyone caught wearing low-riding pants with a fine of as much as \$500 or as many as six months in jail, or both.

"I'm sick of seeing it," said Shepherd, a first-term legislator. "The community's outraged. And if parents can't do their job, if parents can't regulate what their children wear, then there should be a law."

The bill would be tacked onto the state's obscenity law, which restricts sexual activity in public places and the sale of sexually explicit items.

Joe Cook, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's Louisiana chapter, said the bill probably does not meet the U.S. Supreme Court's standard for the prohibition of obscene behavior under the First Amendment.

"What about a woman who is wearing a bathing suit under her garment or she has something like a sarong wrapped around her and it's below her waist," he said. "I can think of a lot of workers, plumbers, who are working and expose their buttocks ..."

Neb. Hunters Leave City, Turkeys Enter

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) -- As hunters leave the city for the spring turkey hunting season, some gobblers are finding refuge strutting around inside the city limits.

Linda Knott, a teacher at St. John's School, recently saw one of the large birds land on a windowsill at the school.

"I said, 'Hey, you guys, there's a turkey on the windowsill,'" Knott recalled.

By the time her colleagues came into the room, the turkey had flown away. Knott's co-workers started making jokes about Knott's bird identification skills.

The jokes stopped moments later when a student reported seeing a "big chicken" on school grounds.

Lincoln Animal Control officials said they have received a lot of calls about turkey sightings recently. Most of the calls have come from the city's edges.

More turkeys are being seen in Lincoln because the wild turkey population has grown significantly in recent years, said wildlife biologist Kit Hams with the state Game and Parks Commission.

Turkeys may be new to Lincoln, but in other parts of Nebraska, the birds are almost a common sight. One such place is Boys Town, where a flock of turkeys has roamed for years.

Report: BALCO Gave Track Stars Steroids

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A nutritionist charged with distributing illegal drugs to pro athletes told federal agents he gave steroids to track stars Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery in exchange for endorsements, according to a story posted by the San Francisco Chronicle on its Web site.

The story, quoting sources who requested anonymity, said Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative founder Victor Conte told the federal investigators that Jones and Montgomery received the performance-enhancing substances in exchange for endorsements of his nutritional supplement.

Today in history... APRIL 23

1945 Americans and Russians link up, cut Germany in two

On this day in 1945, eight Russian armies completely encircle Berlin, linking up with the U.S. First Army patrol, first on the western bank of the Elbe, then later at Torgau. Germany is, for all intents and purposes, Allied territory.

The Allies sounded the death knell of their common enemy by celebrating. In Moscow, news of the link-up between the two armies resulted in a 324-gun salute; in New York, crowds burst into song and dance in the middle of Times Square. Among the Soviet commanders who participated in this historic meeting of the two armies was the renowned Russian Marshal Georgi K. Zhukov, who warned a skeptical Stalin as early as June 1941 that Germany posed a serious threat to the Soviet Union.

Zhukov would become invaluable in battling German forces within Russia (Stalingrad and Moscow) and without. It was also Zhukov who would demand and receive unconditional surrender of Berlin from German General Krebs less than a week after encircling the German capital. At the end of the war, Zhukov was awarded a military medal of honor from Great Britain.

1964 Johnson announces appointment of Westmoreland

President Lyndon B. Johnson announces that Gen. William Westmoreland will replace Gen. Paul Harkins as head of U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) as of June 20.

The assignment would put Westmoreland in charge of all American military forces in Vietnam. One of the war's most controversial figures, General Westmoreland was given many honors when the fighting was going well, but when the war turned sour, many Americans saw him as a cause of U.S. problems in Vietnam. Negative feeling about Westmoreland grew particularly strong following the Tet Offensive of 1968, when he had requested a large number of additional troops for deployment to Vietnam.

On March 22, 1968, President Johnson announced that Westmoreland would depart South Vietnam to take on the post of Army Chief of Staff; Gen. Creighton Abrams replaced him as the senior U.S. commander in South Vietnam.

1972 North Vietnamese Army close to cutting South Vietnam in two

Hanoi's 320th Division drives 5,000 South Vietnamese troops into retreat and traps about 2,500 others in a border outpost northwest of Kontum in the Central Highlands. This was part of the ongoing North Vietnamese Nguyen Hue Offensive, also known as the "Easter Offensive," which included an invasion by 120,000 North Vietnamese troops.

The offensive was based on three objectives: Quang Tri in the north, Kontum in the Central Highlands, and An Loc in the south--just 65 miles north of Saigon. If successful, the attack at Kontum would effectively cut South Vietnam in two across the Central Highlands, giving North Vietnam control of the northern half of South Vietnam.

The South Vietnamese defenders were able to hold out and prevent this from happening.

V CORPS MEMORY PROJECT

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AND IMAGES:

"THE MEMORY PROJECT" is designed solely as a service to allow V Corps' soldiers, civilian employees and their family members share their memories, impressions, images and lessons learned while deployed on V Corps missions.

It is neither a forum for personal opinion or commentary, nor a messaging, bulletin board or chat service.

Messages of up to 150 words that convey a memory of deployment or share a lesson learned of value to our deployed and deploying Soldiers may be posted here. Longer messages may be submitted; however, they will be edited or summarized.

All attempts will be made to post messages as soon as possible; however, depending on the volume of messages received, posting may take several days. The length of time messages remain posted will depend on the volume of messages received.

No personal information such as telephone numbers, e-mail addresses or postal addresses will be posted. Messages must include the sender's name and an accurate return e-mail address (e-mail address is solely for use if verification or clarification is needed, and will not be posted). Please title e-mails with the subject line "Memory Project (YOUR LAST NAME)."

One non-copyrighted personal photo or image may be submitted for posting with your text here. Images must have been produced by the submitter. Please send all images as an attachment to the message e-mail, not in the message content.

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myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2004				As of: Sunday, April 25, 2004 9:03:33 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - NFL DRAFT (JIP)		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		CNN SUNDAY	00:00
01:00			AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		MEET THE PRESS	01:00
01:30		ESPNEWS	THE TWILIGHT ZONE (TVPG): - STILL VALLEY			01:30
02:00	REAL SPORTS WITH BRYANT GUMBEL	ESPNEWS	FANTASY ISLAND (TVG): - FLIGHT OF GREAT YELLOWBIRD/ ISLAND OF THE LOST WOMEN	ESPNEWS	TIM RUSSERT	02:00
02:30		HEADLINE NEWS		ESPNEWS		02:30
03:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM4: NEW JERSEY NETS @ NY KNICKS	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			03:30
04:00	MLB - ATLANTA BRAVES @ FLORIDA MARLINS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA THE BEAUTY QUEEN	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - LOUDER!	THIS WEEK	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF'S MISTAKE	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		04:30
05:00			AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - MAJOR SPOILERS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATeline INTERNATIONAL	05:00
05:30		NBA - PLAYOFFS - 1ST ROUND GM 4: SAN ANTONIO SPURS @ MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES				05:30
06:00			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - ROOFTOP	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES	06:00
07:00	SPORTSCENTER		THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - GRAVE SECRETS	HEADLINE NEWS	CNN PRESENTS	07:00
07:30				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NOVA (TVPG): - BUILDING BIG: DOMES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		08:25
08:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT	ESPNEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	STAR TREK VI: UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT	09:00
09:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		09:13
09:30	SPORTSCENTER					09:30
10:00		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - LOUDER!		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - AMNESIO	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE PIXIMON COMETH		10:30
11:00	PGA TOUR - SHELL HOUSTON OPEN: FINAL ROUND	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE	I SPY (TVY): - A MUMBLE MONSTER PICTURE DAY/THE CLOUDS ROLL BY	BELTWAY BOYS	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SECRET WORLD OF GIRLS	FOX NEWS WATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA THE BEAUTY QUEEN	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF'S MISTAKE	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - MAJOR SPOILERS	ESPNEWS	DATeline NBC	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30				HEADLINE NEWS		13:30
13:52				PACIFIC REPORT		13:52
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - ROOFTOP	60 MINUTES		14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - GRAVE SECRETS	COLD CASE (TV14): - LOOK AGAIN	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 2: MONTREAL CANADIENS @ TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING					15:30
16:00			NOVA (TVPG): - BUILDING BIG: DOMES	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - THE FRIENDLY SKIES		16:00
17:00		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - AMNESIO	STAR TREK VI: UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:22				PACIFIC REPORT		17:22
17:30		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - THE PIXIMON COMETH		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	I SPY (TVY): - A MUMBLE MONSTER PICTURE DAY/THE CLOUDS ROLL BY			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - SECRET WORLD OF GIRLS		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRYS (TVY): - RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE			19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - LISA THE BEAUTY QUEEN	A VISION OF MURDER: THE STORY OF DONIELLE	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	NBA FASTBREAK	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - CLIFF'S MISTAKE			20:30
21:00	NHL - PLAYOFFS - 2ND ROUND GM 2: TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS @ PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	60 MINUTES	AVERAGE JOE (TV14): - MAJOR SPOILERS		DATeline NBC	21:00
21:45				CAT PEOPLE		21:45
22:00		COLD CASE (TV14): - LOOK AGAIN	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - ROOFTOP			22:00
23:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (125CC) SALT LAKE CITY, UT	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - THE FRIENDLY SKIES	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - GRAVE SECRETS		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30				CINEMA SECRETS (TVG): - GREAT BALLS OF FIRE	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30